

# **ERC Team**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Job No. 22192**

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**SUBJECT** GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING - JANUARY 11, 1999

**TO** Distribution

**FROM** Michael J. Graham, GW/VZ Project Manager

**DATE** January 15, 1999

**ATTENDEES**

See Attached List

**DISTRIBUTION**

Attendees  
GW/VZ Distribution List  
Document and Information Services H0-09

**NEXT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING:**

**\*\*NOTE:** The next Project Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19 instead of Monday, January 18 due to the fact that January 18 is a federal holiday.

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Location: Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Assembly Room (Badging Required)

Local Call-In Number: (509) 376-7411

Toll Free Call-In Number: (800) 664-0771

**MEETING MINUTES:**

A Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project Open Meeting was held on January 11, 1999 in Richland, Washington at Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Room 2D01.

**PROJECT REPORT:**

**TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT (TPA) NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE (Jim Poppiti):**

The Department of Energy – Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and Ecology have come to an agreement. The negotiations ended on December 11, by going back into dispute, mainly over issues related to the Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA). Last week, Roger Stanley from Ecology came to DOE-RL with a counter-offer. Ecology dropped the MTCA language from the agreement, and in exchange, DOE-RL agreed to take some field work originally scheduled for Fiscal Year 2000 (FY00) and move it into FY99. As a result, we've added a target milestone in April 1999. Even going through the budget exercises, we should be able to begin this fiscal year. The change package is not in yet.

There will be a 45-day public comment period on the agreement, tentatively scheduled to begin February 1. Everything should be finalized by mid-April. We will be working against the milestones in the package, as if the package has already been approved.

QUESTION: So there is a milestone set for April?

ANSWER: Yes. The target milestone in April is for a workplan for the S/SX Tank Farm. That should put us in the field sometime in the summer. We're trying for early approval from Ecology to go ahead.

SYSTEM ASSESSMENT CAPABILITY (SAC) UPDATE (Bob Bryce/Tony Knepp):

(Bob Bryce) We've had a couple of meetings internally in the last couple of weeks. We are working on development of draft candidate sets, as well as developing criteria for study sets to build a minimal credible SAC. We are planning a working meeting with interested parties towards the end of the month. The date is not yet final, but we're thinking of January 29 (NOTE: Since the meeting the date for this meeting has been confirmed for January 29). We've asked the owners of some of the different sections to draft some set lists and criteria for discussion at that meeting.

(Tony Knepp) We're moving onto the implementation stage now. We've gone through all of the requirements listed in the appendices of the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) Part II. We've committed to put out a summary of the SAC Work Group's review of the requirements, and we'll do that soon.

GW/VZ EXPERT PANEL UPDATE (Tony Knepp):

There is an Expert Panel meeting being held in Richland on February 1-3. We have a conference call scheduled with the Panel chair, Ed Berkey, to set the agenda. One thing we want from the Panel at this meeting is their input and support on the TWRS negotiations and the agreement reached. We want to get that on the agenda if possible and have them work that while they're here.

QUESTION: What actions from last meeting do they owe us for this meeting?

ANSWER: They committed to give us their comments at our last meeting around Christmas, and they're late on providing those. Otherwise they don't owe us anything at this time.

COMMENT: We have an agreement to provide them with items that either they request or that we would like them to review. We've sent them the Project Specification (Spec), which is the major topic for this next meeting. We've indicated to the Panel which sections they need to review in preparation for this meeting.

COMMENT: Last meeting they gave their impressions of the Long Range Plan (LRP) and the Science and Technology (S&T) Plan. They gave no formal comments. They are formally reviewing the Project Spec at this next meeting. I wouldn't expect anything from the Panel prior to this meeting. Any comments on the Project Spec would be individual opinion and not the view of the Panel as a whole.

COMMENT: Ecology would like to give a small presentation to the Panel on TWRS needs and how they can help. We would like to talk to them on the first day of the meeting so they have time to discuss it before the closeout.

ACTION: The Project will talk to the Panel and respond to Ecology.

DOE-HQ REVIEW OF COMPOSITE ANALYSIS AND IMMOBILIZED LOW ACTIVITY WASTE (ILAW) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (PA) (David Olson):

There is a team from the DOE-HQ Low Level Waste Federal Review Group (LFRG) here at Hanford this week to look at the Composite Analysis done last year and the ILAW PA. They are reviewing it for consistency and technical merit. This is basically a DOE-HQ audit and review.

QUESTION: Who is coordinating this for DOE-RL?

ANSWER: Doug Hildebrand.

QUESTION: Is it an open process, or is it limited to DOE or contractor personnel?

ANSWER: There are times set aside in the agenda for the group to meet privately, but it is an open process. If you have any questions call Doug Hildebrand (509-373-9626).

REGIONAL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS (Dru Butler):

There are four public workshops being planned for mid-February. We sent out a questionnaire to some people from the public and tribes asking their opinions on things like location, topics, and times. We asked them to return the questionnaires as soon as possible so that we could use their input to help with the planning. We have only received three replies from over twenty requests.

The dates we have scheduled currently are February 17 in Hood River, February 18 in Richland, February 23 in Portland, and February 24 in Seattle. All of the dates are tentative at this point, except Portland. The Portland meeting is to be held at the state offices there. I'm holding off on arrangements for the other locations until I get some more feedback.

QUESTION: Do we have enough material to even do public meetings at this point? What are you proposing to talk about? Do you have a preliminary agenda at this point? What is the purpose behind these meetings? There are three other things happening in February that I can think of off the top of my head. There are the DOE-RL Budget meetings. There is a workshop on risk and acceptable cleanup, and there is the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB). What coordination is going on to avoid conflicts?

ANSWER: By the time these meetings happen we will be right in the middle of our public comment period for the Project Spec. The main reason for holding these meetings now is to talk about that. We're trying to share information, but it's more important for us to get feedback. We are trying to build a draft agenda, and that was one of the reasons for the questionnaire. We still need more input from stakeholders and regulators about agenda items. As far as conflicts with other meetings, if you look at the calendar (Attachment 1), you'll see that we recognize that February is a busy month. We've taken those meetings that we are aware of into account. The meetings you mentioned are on there.

COMMENT: I don't see the budget meetings that DOE-RL is holding in Seattle and Portland during February on the calendar.

RESPONSE: DOE-RL is planning those for early March.

COMMENT: EPA was wondering if there is enough demand for this type of thing right now. If the demand is not there, then how productive will the workshops be?

RESPONSE: All of these locations were selected because there was interest expressed by stakeholders from those areas.

COMMENT: There appears to be interest in the GW/VZ Integration Project and the DOE approach to cleanup and how CRCIA is going to be implemented. Is that what's going to be covered in these workshops?

ANSWER: The basic purpose of the workshops is to get out and tell our story. We'll give an overview of the Project Spec and the LRP and ask for feedback.

RESPONSE: The Project is wanting to set up one-on-one meetings with some of the key participants such as EPA, Ecology, Hanford Watch, etc. We feel that we need to do some up front work to be able to have meaningful discussions about the plan. If we talk to people and organizations like the State of Oregon, Columbia River United, etc., and get the message out, then everyone will be better prepared to talk about it.

QUESTION: Are you confident you have enough meat to feed the public on how you're engaging their needs.

ANSWER: I (Dru Butler) don't think this can wait any longer. I'm convinced that the time is now. With the public comment period for the Project Spec taking place, this is the appropriate time to get constructive feedback.

COMMENT: The timing could be better though. The DOE-RL Budget meeting are high on a lot of people's calendars for next month, and adding another Hanford related meeting might be a bit much.

RESPONSE: If we wait for the plan to be perfect before getting out there, then we'll never do anything because the plan won't ever be perfect. I don't know how long you wait. Some people would say we've waited too long already. It's time to engage the public using the tools we've got and listen to what they have to say. We need to show them what we've got, ask our questions and reply to their questions, and see if it what we're doing to this point captures some of the things they are concerned about.

RESPONSE: We need to do this in a manner that is tagged onto the FY00 budget process. The Detailed Work Plan (DWP) process will start again in May/June, and the planning and prioritization for the next three years will begin. We need to use this as a basis for that planning. If we wait much longer before getting out and talking to the public, then we get caught up against it. We're trying to tie this into the budget process instead of competing with it. We want the people involved in the budget meetings to be aware of what we're doing too. It's going to benefit us to be visible before the budget meetings. Plus, key stakeholders in Seattle, Tom Carpenter from the Government Accountability Project and Gerald Pollet from Heart of America Northwest, wanted us to try to fit this in before the budget meetings.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

QUESTION: When is the LRP graphic going to be available?

RESPONSE: We have copies of the graphic available, but we've been limiting the distribution due to the cost. If you'd really like one, and you think you have the wall space for it, we would be happy to provide one.

ACTION: Provide a copy of the medium sized version of the LRP to Dib Goswami, Gordon Rogers, Barbara Harper, and Tom Post.

COMMENT: Keep in mind that this graphic will change. If you're just curious to see how it looks, then you should wait until after the workshops and we have had time to incorporate any changes that come out of those.

QUESTION: Does the LRP have accompanying text?

ANSWER: The Project Spec is the text.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROJECT PARTICIPATION:**

(See attached Look Ahead Calendar)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

(See attached Look Ahead Calendar)

As you can see, January and February are fairly well booked. Most of the items are things that people are familiar with, but I'd like to touch on the Vadose Zone (VZ) Textbook.

There is meeting taking place in Seattle this week. This is work sponsored by EM-50 and includes people from Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL). There have been several working meetings at various sites, and this Seattle meeting is the last scheduled meeting. The idea behind the VZ Textbook is to compile the state of the art all in one place. It is intended as a reference for graduate and undergraduate students. The group preparing the document will be here on February 3 to give a briefing to the GW/VZ Project and its stakeholders, following the conclusion of the Expert Panel Meeting. It's a chance for us all to catch up on their progress.

**NOTE:**

GW/VZ Web Site location: <http://www.bhi-erc.com/vadose>

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1) GW/VZ Integration Project Look Ahead Calendar

**ATTENDEES:**

Bob Bryce, PNNL  
Dru Butler, BHI  
Greg deBruler, Columbia River United  
Owen Goodman, BHI  
Dib Goswami, Ecology  
Michael Graham, BHI  
Barb Harper, Yakama Indian Nation  
Dave Holland, Ecology  
Rich Holten, DOE-RL  
Mike Hughes, BHI  
Gary Jewell, BHI  
Tony Knepp, BHI  
Stan Leja, Ecology  
Rick McCain, Mactec-ers  
Dave Olson, DOE-RL  
Tom Page, PNNL  
Jim Poppiti, DOE-RL  
Tom Post, EPA  
Gordon Rogers, Tri-Cities Caucus  
Steve Sautter, Oregon Office of Energy  
Stan Sobczyk, Nez Perce Tribe  
Mike Thompson, DOE-RL  
Rob Yasek, DOE-RL

**Attachment 1**

**GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT  
LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR  
JANUARY 18, 1999 – MARCH 26, 1999**

<b>January 18</b>	<i>Martin Luther King Day – Federal Holiday</i>
<b>January 19</b>	GW/VZ Policy Work Group Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.)
<b>January 19</b>	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 1 p.m.)
<b>January 26-28</b>	Subsurface Contaminant Focus Group Meeting (Augusta, GA)
<b>January 28-29</b>	National Resource Trustee Council Meeting (Kennewick – Ecology office)
<b>January 29</b>	System Assessment Capability Working Meeting (Richland – BHI)
<b>February 1-3</b>	GW/VZ Expert Panel Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room)
<b>February 3</b>	Briefing on Vadose Zone Textbook (Richland – BHI Assembly Room following Expert Panel Meeting)
<b>February 8</b>	State of Oregon Meeting (Salem, OR – 1-3 p.m.)
<b>February 8</b>	Hanford Watch Meeting (Portland – 6-9 p.m.)
<b>February 10</b>	100 Area Informational Workshop (Kennewick – Cavanaugh's – 7-9:30 p.m.)
<b>February 11-12</b>	Hanford Advisory Board Meeting (Tri-Cities, WA – location and time TBD)
<b>February 15</b>	Presidents Day – Federal Holiday
<b>February 16</b>	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 1 p.m.)
<i>February 17</i>	<i>GW/VZ Regional Workshop (Hood River, OR)</i>
<i>February 18</i>	<i>GW/VZ Regional Workshop (Richland)</i>
<b>February 23</b>	GW/VZ Regional Workshop (Portland)
<i>February 24</i>	<i>GW/VZ Regional Workshop (Seattle)</i>
<i>February 25</i>	<i>DOE-RL Budget Workshop (Richland)</i>
<i>March (early)</i>	<i>DOE-RL Budget Meetings (Portland/Seattle/Richland)</i>
<b>March 1</b>	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 1 p.m.)
<i>March 11</i>	<i>Hanford Advisory Board – ER Committee Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room)</i>
<b>March 15</b>	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 1 p.m.)
<b>March 24</b>	Tri-Party Agreement Quarterly Meeting (Richland – Tower Inn – 1-3 p.m.)
<b>March 25-26</b>	Hanford Advisory Board Meeting (Richland – Tower Inn)

NOTE: *Italics denote tentative dates*